MINUTES

Byron Southwood P.S.
Home & School / School Council

1379 Lola St, London ON N6K 3R6 (519) 452-8100

10/05/2026 | 6:33p.m. – 7:58 p.m. | School Library

Meeting called to order by Tonia at 6:33p.m.

Officers

President/ Chair: Tonia Siemon

Vice President/Vice Chair: Nina Rudd

Treasurer: Chelsey Gibson

Secretary: Elisha Bergeron

Fundraising Chair: Candice Avola-Lyons

Past President: Mandy Long

In Attendance

Present: Mandy Long, Tonia Siemon, Elisha Bergeron, Valerie Laufman, Adam Bujold, Chelsey Gibson, Scott Mandich, Dayna Aalbers, Amy Thompson, Candice Avola Lyons, Michelle MacDonald, Natasha Barby, Sarah Barnes, Jenna Scott, Julianne March, Amber Wallace, Sasha Dewque, Lesley Greer, Angela Carter, Darbi Greensides, Nina Rudd

Regrets: Tammy Adams, Matt Ebel, Charlotte Kaye McQueen, Ashley Rockwood Armstrong, Allison Hillis, Meredith Lockwood, Alyssa Ostryhon, Tasha Whyte, Jenn Whitty

Approval of Agenda/Minutes

GEN-OCT2026-01 THAT WE APPROVE OCTOBER AGENDA

M: Mandy Long S: Natasha Barby Carried

GEN-OCT2026-02 THAT WE APPROVE SEPTEMBER MINUTES

M: Scott Mandich S: Amber Wallace Carried

Principal Report-Lisa Watson

- EQAO results will be coming home in the next week or so. The school will print them out and send home with the students. Scores for our school are impressive. We are well above Thames Valley Board and provincial.
    - Grade 3, 86% of students are at or above average for Math. Reading 86% and writing at 86%. 20-35% of grade 3 students are level 4 students. 96% of students wrote EQAO for the school. The grade 3 scores are similar to last years scores.

- Grade 6, Math scores are 71% versus last year at 82%. A major focus this year is growth in math for Grade 6. Province will also be focusing on Math at the Grade 6 level. Grade 6 Writing 94%. 35% of the kids were level 4 in writing. If student score high in reading and writing, they can do the same in math. The school will dig deeper in the data and what areas of math they can focus on. Very impressed with the scores. We can always keep working and can always improve. Grade three is often higher than grade 6. The board average for math is around 50%. Planning on having an EQAO interest night and go through the data closer to EQAO testing time. The school will look at cohorts and areas of improvements. School looks at the level 2's close to the level 3 mark. Level 3 meets board standards.

- Basketball try-outs have begun.
- Cross Country regionals will take place on Wednesday October 7th, 2026.
- Terry Fox run is Friday October 9th, 2026.
- Halloween- Students are allowed to wear costumes, no weapons or masks. Please be careful on treats with allergies since the school has a variety of allergies this year.
- Halloween Dance is coming up, Home and School running it.
- Mrs. Watson will continue to send weekly updates over email to the parents.

DATES

- Grade 5/6-8 Concert Glee & Concert – Tue 2026-12-08 9:45am – 11:00am
- Grade 5/6-8 Concert Glee & Concert – Tue 2026-12-08 12:00pm – 1:10pm
- Grade 3-5 Primary & Junior Concert Webb – Thu 2026-12-10 9:45am – 11:00am
- Grade 3-5 Primary & Junior Concert Webb – Thu 2026-12-10 12:00pm - 1:15pm
- Concert Band (1:15) – Thu 2026-12-10 1:15pm – 2:10pm
- Carnival – Thu 2027-02-11
- Graduation – 2027-06-17 5:30pm at Saunders

Q- We did not get all the updates on cross-country practice changes. Can we have an email for more communications. Yes, I will continue to send more communication and will speak with the teachers.
Q- How are the parent teacher interviews happening next month with no pd day? Mrs. Watson - The message I am giving is that communication with teachers is ongoing. Please reach out to the teacher on any issues whether it be a phone call or in person meeting. The school will consider doing another drop-in night.
Q- Can we share with the families when progress reports come out to reach out to the teachers for any issues. Mrs. Watson – Yes absolutely, I will send out a E blast.
Q- Is all the school going to have a fall classroom reorganization done? Mrs. Watson- No, we are done, we had to move 2 students to be compliant.
Q- Do volunteering parents have to get a new vulnerable sector check each year? Mrs. Watson – Yes, the new rules state a new vulnerable check will need to be completed every 12 months. Parents used to have declarations signed with the school. If you plan on attending a field trip, do not worry you can still attend just need to provide proof that the new vulnerable sector check was submitted. The vulnerable sector checks take a few weeks to come back complete.

Staff Report-Lisa Watson

- 40 chrome books have been ordered.
- Will order 10 more Chrome books when Home and School have reached the $40,000 fundraising goal.
- Staff say a huge thank you for rainy day bins.
- No requests for staff.

Financing Report

September's Overview

- Starting balance for the bank account is $48997.33.
- Income for the Month of September consisted of hot lunch and $1600 chrome book donations to equal $20184.42.
- Expenses for the Month of September consisted of rainy-day bins, teacher allowances and hot lunch days to equal $2420.72.
- Ending Balance for the bank account was $66761.03.
- Chromebook fundraisers take up most of the money we have in the bank for Home and School.
- We have outstanding expenses to fund still; therefore, we have no money to allocate to new initiatives currently.
- Home and School are currently working on the annual verification. We need to prove that everything we pay for is accurate and we have a receipt. Tonia and Chelsey are working on the annual verification.

Fundraising Update

- Halloween dance – Thursday October 29th, 6-9pm. High school students welcome to get volunteer hours. We will have DJ on the stage and will have a snack bar. Nina will arrange to get the snacks. Check out the sign up for the Halloween Dance for Volunteer spots.

Fundraising Ideas Fall 2026

- Basket raffle – Not sure we will be doing the basket raffle this year. We will be considering other options. Only made $1900 and not sure if because of lottery license and 3d printing items. We could consider doing different baskets at each concert but will need more lottery licenses per raffle.
- Gift card fundraiser, Fundscript. Each gift card can give different kick back amounts. Website link and fundraiser will just roll in the background.
- Canadian safety supplies. There are a bunch of different first aid kits to purchase, small to large sizes. Nov 23 would be the deadline for the Fall order, and it would be 4-6 weeks to deliver. May 21 would be the spring deadline. All orders would give us 40 percent profit. Orders over $1000 will qualify for free shipping to the school. $500 minimum order.

- Box of cards, all one occasion, box of candles, box of holiday cards, box of birthday cards. We can do the order form and there is no minimum order. $11 per box of profit. We can send information package home and not send the box of cards.
- Q- Could we do a Cookie Dough Fundraiser? The school has never done one that we know of. Candice will investigate this and get more information.
- We can ask Mr. Ebel if he is willing to do 3D printed items for the Holiday concerts and will let everyone know the details next meeting.
- We got information on 2 different farms to sell Poinsettias.
    - Warren Greenhouses in Kitchener has 4 sizes, 3 colours - middle of Nov to get orders in. $100 to deliver to London.
    - Huron Ridge in Zurich - 2 sizes, wreaths and other arrangements- middle of Nov to get orders in. $75 to deliver to London.
    - Recommend orders be picked up within 24 hours, no pick-up on Friday advised.

Vote THAT WE DO THE HOLIDAY BASKET RAFFLE?

Not All in Favour **Denied**

Vote THAT WE DO THE Box of Cards and Cookie dough Fundraiser combined?

All in Favour **Carried**

We will also run the Fundscript gift card fundraiser in the background.

Fundraising Ideas Spring 2027

- Spring vendor market, does anyone want to run it this year? Should not do the used book sale every year was the feed back we got. Michelle McDonald will help run the market but would like a partner. Will talk to Megan Powell. Discussion to be continued.
- Would a Silent auction be good? We can keep the spring stuff open for now, always looking for ideas for fundraising for spring concerts. Could also consider a community yard sale (mom to mom).
- We will do the Goodwill fundraiser again. More information to come.
- Date for Fun Fair is tentatively set for Thursday June 3rd, 2027. Need the school to confirm no other events are taking place. Mrs. Watson will speak with staff and get back to us.

New Business/ Existing Business

- There is a new rule that for the Home and School to hold money for other organizations we need to vote/ motion to approve. We currently hold money for the Grade 8 graduation and the best seat of the house (music). Money in and money out.

GEN-OCT2026-03 That we agree to holding money for the Grade 8 Grad and Best Seat of the House.

M: Valerie Laufman S: Jenna Scott **Carried**

- The Home and School By-Laws are the same as last year. Tonia has sent out an email to all the Home and School Members. For Corum we will need executives plus 2. Need 50% yes to pass time. If we have 8 people attending our meeting, need 5 of them to say yes to pass it. The By-laws are on the school website.

- Q- Amy asks has the bike rack been ordered yet? Mrs. Watson – Yes, it has and it will be coming in the next few weeks and then be installed. Hopeful for it to be installed before Winter.

- Q- Can we send cash for popcorn sales on Wednesday? Mrs. Watson – I will check with Mrs. Heard and send out communications tomorrow in an E blast.

GEN-OCT2026-04 THAT WE MOTION TO ADJOURN

M: Lesley Greer S: Adam Bujold **Carried 7:58 pm**

Next Meeting Scheduled: November 2, 2026, 6:30 pm